

SENATE BILL 1624

By Dixon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 9, Chapter 4,
relative to consulting contracts by state entities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 9, Chapter 4, is amended by adding the
following new section:

Section 9-4-5116.

(a) Effective July 1, 2004, all executive, legislative, and judicial branch departments and other state agencies, boards, and commissions wanting to hire outside private-sector consultants must clearly demonstrate that they attempted to use the services of publicly supported state of Tennessee university faculty and staff and that the services were otherwise unavailable.

(b) Evidence of circulating requests for proposals (RFP) or requests for services (RFS) to each of the major educational institutions and evidence of directly contacting interested faculty and research centers and divisions should be provided in each case involving outside consulting services. To support this effort, each state department is required to develop and maintain a bidder's list of interested faculty, staff, and research centers from each major public institution of higher education in Tennessee.

(c) Each department shall submit an annual report on consulting services that clearly identifies the number of consulting contracts and the dollar value of these contracts by vendor, the nature of the services provided, and actions being taken to involve and support public higher education institutions throughout the state.

(d) Each department is encouraged to build professional consulting relationships with the faculty and staff of public higher education institutions.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.